

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 2-5 with the following amended paragraph:

B1 The present invention is directed to a pant-like, refastenable disposable absorbent article having side seams which include a front ear passively bonded to a back ear, wherein the front ear is releasable from the back ear ~~causing minimal or no tearing or damaging the back ear~~ preferably without tearing or damaging the back ear more than the front ear and, most preferably, without tearing or damaging the back ear or negatively affecting its tensile strength.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 3-7 with the following amended paragraph:

B2 As used herein, the term "passive bond" refers to a bond which has a relatively low peel strength such that the bond can be easily broken by hand if desired to assist in inspecting or removing an absorbent article from the wearer, without tearing or severely damaging the other portions of the article, if desired, and without causing trauma to the wearer or spillage of waste materials from the absorbent article. Preferably, for example the passive bond can be broken without tearing or damaging the back ear more than the front ear and, most preferably, without tearing or damaging the back ear or negatively affecting its tensile strength.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 3-6 with the following amended paragraph:

B3 Fig. 4 representatively shows a plan view of the pant-like disposable absorbent article of Fig. 1 in an unfastened, stretched and laid flat condition with a surface of the article which contacts the wearer's skin facing the viewer, and with a portion of the article partially cut away to show the underlying features, according to one embodiment of this invention;

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 17-19 with the following amended paragraph:

B4 Figs. 17-27 ~~illustrate~~ are photographs showing a first material and a second material after a passive bond bonding the two materials together has been broken, according to one embodiment of this invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 1-20 with the following amended paragraph:

B5 The bodyside liner 42 can be manufactured from a wide selection of web materials, such as synthetic fibers (for example, polyester or polypropylene fibers), natural fibers (for example, wood or cotton fibers), a combination of natural and synthetic fibers, porous foams, reticulated foams, apertured plastic films, or the like. Various woven and nonwoven fabrics can be used for the bodyside liner 42. For example, the bodyside liner 42 can be composed of a meltblown or spunbond web of polyolefin fibers. The bodyside liner 42 can also be a bonded-carded web composed of natural and/or synthetic fibers. The bodyside liner 42 can be composed of a substantially hydrophobic material, and the hydrophobic material can, optionally, be treated with a surfactant or otherwise processed to impart a desired level of wettability and hydrophilicity. For example, the material can be surface treated with about 0.28 weight percent of a surfactant commercially available from the Rohm and Haas Co. under the trade designation ~~Friton~~ TRITON X-102. Other suitable surfactants are commercially available from Uniqema Inc., a division of ICI of New Castle, Delaware, under the trade designation Ahcovel, and from Cognis Corporation of Ambler, Pennsylvania, produced in Cincinnati, Ohio, and sold under the trade designation Glucopon 220. The surfactant can be applied by any conventional means, such as spraying, printing, brush coating or the like. The surfactant can be applied to the entire bodyside liner 42 or can be selectively applied to particular sections of the

B5 bodyside liner 42, such as the medial section along the longitudinal centerline.

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 1-8 with the following amended paragraph:

B6 A suitable liquid permeable bodyside liner 42 is a nonwoven bicomponent web having a basis weight of about 27 gsm. The nonwoven bicomponent can be a spunbond bicomponent web, or a bonded carded bicomponent web. Suitable bicomponent staple fibers include a polyethylene/polypropylene bicomponent fiber available from ~~CHSSO~~ Chisso Corporation, Osaka, Japan. In this particular bicomponent fiber, the polypropylene forms the core and the polyethylene forms the sheath of the fiber. Other fiber orientations are possible, such as multi-lobe, side-by-side, end-to-end, or the like.

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, lines 6-16 with the following amended paragraph:

B7 In a particular embodiment of this invention, side seam 68 includes two dissimilar materials. For example, each side seam 68 can include a first tearable material passively bonded to a second material, different from the first material. A portion of the front waist region 22 (as shown in Fig. 5), the lateral side panel or front ear 106 (as shown in Fig. 6), or a portion of the attachment panel 66 positioned on the front waist region 22, for example, can comprise the first material, such as a point bonded nonwoven material. A portion of the back waist portion 24 (as shown in Fig. 5) or the lateral side panel or back ear 107 (as shown in Fig. 6), for example, can comprise the second material which is different from the first material, such as a KRATON[®]-based film sandwiched between two layers of polypropylene spunbond (KNBL). Desirably, but not necessarily, the second material is elastic or extensible.